

M/045/0078
NO TASK

Leslie Heppler <lheppler@utah.gov>



DHGC Annual Wildlife Report

1 message

Linde Havenstrite <linde@dhgcorp.com>

Tue, May 26, 2015 at 11:31 AM

To: "Allen, Stephen" <sallen@blm.gov>, jbryan@blm.com

Cc: Rick H <rickh@odcnv.com>, Leslie Heppler <lheppler@utah.gov>

Steve,

Please see the attached Annual Wildlife Report for Desert Hawk Gold Corp. The Plan of Operations Approval states that we only need to submit a digital copy of this. Please let me know if there is anything else that you need.

Thank you,

Linde Havenstrite

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RECEIVED E-Mail

MAY 26 2015

Div. of Oil, Gas & Mining



DHGC Annual Wildlife Report 2014-2015.pdf

250K

Desert Hawk Gold Corp.

Annual Wildlife Report

U-87834

May 2014 – April 2015

Introduction

Desert Hawk Gold Corp. was approved for the Kiewit Project (M-045-0078 UDOGM, U-87834 BLM) on February 21, 2014. The Plan of Operations for the Kiewit Project includes a Wildlife Management Plan in Appendix XXIV, Supplement 2. The Wildlife Management Plan outlines measures Desert Hawk Gold Corp. must undertake during construction and production of the project to ensure the safety of wildlife in the area, which includes submitting an annual wildlife report to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Construction of the project began immediately after approval of the permit, and production began in August of 2014. In May of 2014, a representative for the BLM, Chris Bryan, visited the site and conducted training to Desert Hawk Gold staff. Those present were the President- Rick Havenstrite, Mine Superintendent- John Caviglia, Office and Safety Manager- Linda Miller, and Staff Engineer- Linde Havenstrite. Mr. Bryan provided Desert Hawk with forms for logging wildlife siting's. Utilizing these and other in-house documents, a wildlife monitoring plan was put in place.

Methods

The Kiewit Mine Superintendent was given the task of daily monitoring of the wildlife at the Kiewit Property. During his daily duties at the mine site, the superintendent keeps track of any wildlife spotted and keeps records of this. A record is only logged if there is significant wildlife activity that day, and a more detailed log is filled out if a mortality was involved. The superintendent also performs the monthly surveys for active bird nests.

Summary

The Environmental Assessment that was performed for the Plan of Operations states that "There are no Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate species that occur in the project area" (pg. 61). There are six special status species that could occur in the area, however, only two of these have ever been detected within the project area: the Townsends big-eared bat and the kit fox.

On a regular basis the wildlife that can be seen in the area are ravens, doves, snakes, lizards, chukar, cottontail rabbits and jack rabbits. Neither the Townsend big-eared bat nor the kit fox has been spotted in the last year.

Throughout the year between May 2014 and April 2015, three fatalities were recorded by Desert Hawk staff. These fatalities were a Blow Snake, a Rattlesnake, and a Pine Jay. The blow snake was found run-over on the entry road into the mine in June of 2014. The Rattlesnake was found dead on the cyanide pad in August of 2014. And the Pine Jay was found dead in the pond ditch in October of 2014. A daily log form was filled out for each of these events and can be found at the end of this submittal.

Monthly bird surveys have taken place during the breeding season (March 1 – July 15). At the beginning of the breeding season this year, all of the construction for the project was finished, therefore disturbing new nests was very unlikely. The only new disturbance taking place is the slow expansion of the pit.

Mitigation Measures

In addition to monitoring, the Wildlife Management Plan outlines specific stipulations and mitigation measures for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project in order to protect wildlife in the area. Hereafter is a brief summary of those measures that have taken place at the Project.

A six-foot high fence (4-foot hogwire with 2 strands barbed wire above) was constructed, which encloses the pregnant pond, barren pond, and heap leach facility to protect wildlife from gaining entry. There are two main gates into this area which have a cattle guard as protection against wildlife entry.

The Wildlife Management Plan specifies that the cyanide pregnant pond is to be covered with 5/8" x 3/4" netting. This netting was purchased and installed, however it blew away in the first wind storm. To remedy the issue, Desert Hawk purchased 4" HDPE hollow bird balls to cover the surface of the pond. These bird balls deter birds from landing on the surface of the pond.

Conclusion

Desert Hawk has complied with the construction stipulations of the Wildlife Management Plan set forth in the Environmental Assessment for the project. Daily wildlife monitoring and recording has taken place, and the proper forms have been completed. Please see the attached forms completed for the year May 2014 to April 2015. Very little wildlife was seen or affected by this project in the last year, and no sensitive species were harmed or even detected. Monitoring at the site will continue to take place, and another report will be filed in one year.

★ MORTALITY

MONTH 11th June 2014

[illegible]

★ MORTALITY

[illegible]

Wildlife Survey

MONTH: Oct, Nov, Dec 2014

★ MORTALITY

Date	Inspector	Notes
10/2/14	JTC	Pink Jays
10/3/14	JTC	Pink Jays 1- Dragon Air Jet by Direct
10/16/14	JTC	CHUCKAR (2) Tow Air
10/24/14	JTC	Raptor
11/4/14	JTC	GRACKLE WING TESS (4) On Air
11/12/14	JTC	RAVENS (2)
11/13/14	JTC	CHUCKAR (2)
11/19/14	JTC	COTTONTAIL (PARKING LOT)
11/24/14	JTC	COYOTE (DRAINAGE POND)
12/4/2014	JTC	Raptor
12/12/14	JTC	RAVENS (2)
12/26/14	JTC	BLACK ROBOT
12/31/14	JTC	COTTONTAIL (YOUNG HAMMON)

Desert Hawk Gold Corporation

Kiewit Project

Wildlife Survey

MONTH: Jan, Feb March 2015

Date	Inspector	Notes
1/13/2015	JTC	ROCKS (2)
1/22/15	JTC	COTTONTAIL (UPPER ACCESS Rd)
1/23/15	JTC	ROCKS (2)
2/11/15	JTC	ROCKS (3)
2/15/15	JTC	CHIMMALK
2/19/15	JTC	JACK RABBIT
3/12/15	JTC / NH	5 - SAND PIPERS -
3/15/15	TNH	3 - CANADIAN GEESE
4/19/2015	RH	4 - SAND PIPERS
4/21/2015	JTC	1 - JACK RABBIT ON HAWK ROCK

DESERT HAWK MINE ENVIRONMENTAL DAILY LOG

Project: DESERT HAWK Investigator(s): _____

Date: 6/9/2014 Issue Follow-up: _____

Start Time: 7¹⁵ AM Start Weather: CLEAR

End Time: 5⁴⁵ PM End Weather: CLEAR

Trenches/Ponds Checked: YES Crews Briefed: YES Sensitive Areas Cleared: None
Mon Morn SAFETY MEETING

New Personnel Trained (Names): _____

Construction Activities: POW LINE STARTED - CRUSHING & MORNING
WASH PIT MINING
INSTALLING GATES
WASTE WATER DIVERSION

Construction Contained Within Authorized Areas: YES

Equipment Not Maintained: _____ Drip Pans Utilized: _____ Equipment Weed Free: _____

Sensitive Species (Sign/Sightings/Location): _____

Wildlife Fatalities (count/species/Location): 1- BLOW SNAKE - ENTRY ROAD

Status Active/Fledged Raptor Nests: _____

Mammals: 3- COTTONTAILS

Birds: DOVES (3) CHICKADEES (1), 1- RAPTOR

Herps: 1- LIZARDS

Issues Addressed: _____

Detailed Notes: _____

Issue Follow Up - Issues from previous day follow up/results. Trenches Checked-Time. Crews Briefed - Time. Sensitive Areas Cleared - Time. Equipment Not Maintained - Equipment name. Drip Pans Utilized - If no, name of equipment. Equipment Weed Free - Newly arriving equipment checked for dirt/mud/debris. Name of equipment and date inspected. Issues Addressed - Any issues/corrective action addressed.

DESERT HAWK MINE ENVIRONMENTAL DAILY LOG

Project: Desert Hawk Investigator(s): J. C. Sullivan

Date: 8/15/2014 Issue Follow-up: n/a

Start Time: 10¹⁵ AM Start Weather: n/a

End Time: n/a End Weather: n/a

Trenches/Ponds Checked: ✓ Crews Briefed: n/a Sensitive Areas Cleared: n/a

New Personnel Trained (Names): _____

Construction Activities: _____

Construction Contained Within Authorized Areas: _____

Equipment Not Maintained: n/a Drip Pans Utilized: n/a Equipment Weed Free: n/a

Sensitive Species (Sign/Sightings/Location): _____

Wildlife Fatalities (count/species/Location): DEAD RATTLE SNAKE ON POND

Status Active/Fledged Raptor Nests: _____

Mammals: _____

Birds: _____

Herps: _____

Issues Addressed: _____

Detailed Notes:

Issue Follow Up - Issues from previous day follow up/results. Trenches Checked-Time. Crews Briefed - Time Sensitive Areas Cleared - Time. Equipment Not Maintained - Equipment name. Drip Pans Utilized - If no, name of equipment. Equipment Weed Free - Newly arriving equipment checked for dirt/mud/debris. Name of equipment and date inspected. Issues Addressed - Any issues/corrective action addressed.

DESERT HAWK MINE ENVIRONMENTAL DAILY LOG

Project: DESERT Hawk Investigator(s): J. C. [Signature]

Date: 10/3/14 Issue Follow-up: _____

Start Time: 9AM Start Weather: N/A

End Time: 1/2 End Weather: N/A

Trenches/Ponds Checked: ✓ Crews Briefed: N/A Sensitive Areas Cleared: N/A

New Personnel Trained (Names): _____

Construction Activities: _____

Construction Contained Within Authorized Areas: _____

Equipment Not Maintained: N/A Drip Pans Utilized: N/A Equipment Weed Free: N/A

Sensitive Species (Sign/Sightings/Location): _____

Wildlife Fatalities (count/species/Location): DEAD PINE JAY in Pan DITCH

Status Active/Fledged Raptor Nests: _____

Mammals: _____

Birds: _____

Herps: _____

Issues Addressed: _____

Detailed Notes:

Issue Follow Up - Issues from previous day follow up/results. Trenches Checked-Time Crews Briefed - Time Sensitive Areas Cleared - Time Equipment Not Maintained - Equipment name Drip Pans Utilized - If no, name of equipment. Equipment Weed Free - Newly arriving equipment checked for dirt/mud/debris. Name of equipment and date inspected. Issues Addressed - Any issues/corrective action addressed.